

Preview for Service of Word and Sacrament, December 7, 2025
The Second Sunday in Advent
Liturgical Color: Blue
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Tiburon, California

Visit the church website: www.wpctiburon.org, 415-383-5272
240 Tiburon Boulevard, Tiburon, California 94920

This weekly study guide seeks to help members, friends, and visitors prepare for the upcoming Sunday service and teaching.



Call to Worship (8:30)

One: Today, we light the candle of peace.

Many: Make us instruments of your peace, O God.

One: Today, we gather to hear of God's justice.

Many: Make us dreamers of your vision, O God.

One: Today, we come to the table.

Many: Make us unafraid of one another and those we are told are wholly "other."

Opening Blessing (10:00)

We gather in worship and at the holy table of communion during a season in which we wait for you anew, O Christ. Enter this space. Today, we light the candle of peace and pray its coming. Meet us at this table. Bless us in word and sacrament that we might be transformed by your love. Amen.

Community Prayer

Provider of All Things, Architect of Justice, Dreamer of Peace we come to your table seeking communion with you and with one another. We lament ways in which people harm one another and creation, ways we fail to adequately work for the wellbeing of all. We reflect on our own participation in such harm and we pray for a spirit of abundance, care for neighbor, and courage to cultivate more just communities for all. Amen.

Sermon Focus & Title

"A Place at the Table" (Peace)

Robert McClellan

On a communion Sunday in Advent, Marcia McFee challenges us to consider the great gathering of which The Lord's Supper is a foretaste. Both the book of Baruch from The Apocrypha (a collection of writings in some tradition's Bibles but not others) and the New Testament Letter to the Philippians point to the central place of justice in God's vision. It is through justice that all become invited to the table. When we don't live into a commitment to justice, we fall into a mentality of scarcity and deny others a space, but the communion table does not live by the rules of scarcity. Rather it is a ritual of abundance that, like the story of the feeding of the multitudes, says in God's dream the more who come the more food there is.

Scripture(s)

First Reading - Baruch 5:1-5

5 Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,
and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.

2 Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting,

3 for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven,

4 for God will give you evermore the name,
"Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."

5 Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;
look toward the east,
and see your children gathered from west and east
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that God has remembered them.

Second Reading - Philippians 1:9-11

9 And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight 10 to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, 11 having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Hymns

People, Look East 105

You Thirsty Ones, Come 78

Quotes, Questions & Prompts for Reflection, Discussion, and Prayer

"Like the childhood game of "musical chairs," we are convinced that there are not enough places at the table. And so we shrink the guest list just in case there is not enough, and we scramble to occupy the chairs first. And yet our sacred texts invite us to imagine and make real the gathering of all people to the table, robed in the garments of a Peace that comes with justice. This is what really matters— this is the fruit of what is right and good."

-Marcia McFee

1. What are the layers of meaning to the sacrament of communion?
2. Why do we spend a month (Advent) preparing for Christmas?
3. Where does scarcity reign as a way of thinking?
4. What does God's justice look like?
5. What will you do this season to invite Christ into your life?